

Quick Reference Guide for ESF #14

Long-Term Community Recovery

What is the purpose of ESF #14?

- Provides a framework under the National Response Framework to promote successful long-term recoveries for communities suffering significant damages, where local capacity to implement a recovery process is limited.
- Facilitates delivery of federal assistance to local governments in unique and challenging disasters for community recovery, reconstruction and redevelopment.
- Avoids duplication of programs and identifies gaps.
- Provides support for State and local government long term recovery decision making, through aid in identifying key recovery priorities and linking with potential resources.

What specific support does ESF #14 provide?

- Provides a forum for coordinating federal agency long-term community recovery activities with State, Regional, Local and Private Sector efforts. ESF #14 will work with the States and Agencies to develop an appropriate coordination mechanism which may take the form of a federal-state task force, a federal interagency coordination group, or support to a State led effort.
- Provides technical assistance for assessments, impact analysis and recovery planning support. This may include regional studies, facilitating recovery workshops, or providing targeted technical specialists or teams to assist a community in developing a Long Term Community Recovery strategy, plan or action plan for critical recovery projects.
- Provides a mechanism for information sharing and linking recovery needs with potential resources. The focus is on harnessing the available resources of the federal government.
- Develops plans, procedures, and guidance delineating agency resources and participation in various elements of long term community recovery.

Who is ESF #14?

- DHS/FEMA is the lead agency, and serves as the coordinator. HUD, SBA and USDA are primary agencies. There are 15+ other support agencies (including DOC, EPA, DOE, HHS, DOT, ED, DOL, Treasury, ARC, NVOAD, CNCS, and DOI).
- Primary and support agencies as well as other relevant federal departments and agencies are brought in to support ESF #14 activations as necessary.

When does ESF #14 provide support?

- In disasters with potential significant long-term impacts, where enhanced federal coordination and specialized long-term recovery technical assistance is necessary. State and/or local capacity for recovery will be limited.
- ESF #14 provides support during the formative phases of long term recovery, usually the first 3 to 9 months. Support for further implementation of long term community recovery transitions to other long term recovery offices and other special coordinating bodies, such as the Gulf Coast Recovery Office.

How does FEMA activate and operate ESF #14?

- FEMA, in coordination with ESF #14 partner agencies, evaluates the needs for coordination and technical assistance support based on a request from a State and/or FCO. Relative impacts and support needs are examined and support is then tailored to the State and each community.
- FEMA deploys ESF #14 to a disaster within the Operations Section in a Joint Field Office.
- The operation is staffed by a mix of FEMA permanent employees and reservists, contractor support and ESF #14 partner agency staff.

How does ESF #14 relate to other Federal programs?

- ESF #14 provides support to launch community recovery plans, organize and initiate federal coordination with State, local and private sector organizations.
- Other federal programs supporting recovery continue to operate as normal under independent authorities. In the presence of ESF #14 there is enhanced coordination of federal recovery activities to help those agencies identify gaps in programs and potential need for flexibility and new authorities.
- ESF #14 transitions to other agencies' implementation support functions once community recovery plans are launched, resources have been identified and coordinated, and impact analysis are completed. The mechanism for ongoing support for long term recovery is unique to each disaster and is outside the current mission and scope of ESF #14.

What is ESF #14 not?

- Is not the "Local Long Term Recovery Committee". That function provides support, through the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) directly to individuals and families. ESF #14 provides public sector coordination and planning assistance to the community at large for reconstruction, through the local and State government.
- Does not direct, command or approve any federal department or agency recovery funding or program. Agencies continue to operate under their own independent authority. ESF #14 serves as a forum for coordination, planning, information sharing, strategic analysis and technical support.
- Does not provide any grant funding. ESF #14 provides technical specialists and agency personnel for support activities.
- Does not replace State or Local responsibility or authority for long term recovery decision making or planning. ESF #14 can provide support to communities where capability is lacking to provide them technical expertise to inform their decision making.
- While focused on long-term recovery, ESF #14 is not present on scene long term nor does ESF 14 support Federal, State or local entities with implementation of long term recovery. Activities transition to federal and state agencies. Coordinating and support structures would continue under different leadership.

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